

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00438 041139Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 /077 W  
-----041158Z 020526/15

R 040920Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7827  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMCONSUL UDORN  
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0438

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAIR PFOR LA TH  
SUBJECT: LAO-THAI FLIGHTS STILL UP IN THE AIR

REF A VIENTIANE 398, B BANGKOK 4411, C BANGKOK 4331

1. LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD POLOFF MARCH 4 THAT FLIGHTS BETWEEN VIENTIANE AND BANGKOK WOULD DEFINITELY RESUME MARCH 15 OR 17. ASKED IF THIS WERE CERTAIN, HE REPLIED YES AND ADDED THAT POLOFF COULD CHECK WITH THAI DIPLOMAT. BOTH DIPLOMATIC AND THAI AIRWAYS COMPANY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THEY UNAWARE OF ANY DATE FOR RESUMPTION OF FLIGHTS.

2. WESTERNER WHO WORKS WITH LAO AVIATION ALSO UNAWARE OF ANY DATE FOR RESUMPTION OF FLIGHTS BUT SAID THAT LAO AVIATION HAD SENT "ULTIMATUM" TO TAC BANGKOK INSISTING THAT IT AGREE BY A CERTAIN DATE TO LAO HANDLING TAC TICKET SALES IN LPDR. SHE DID NOT SAY WHAT LAO PLANNED TO DO IF THAI DID NOT ACCEPT

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UTLTIMATUM.

3. COMMENT: NOW THAT LAO HAVE BEGUN FLIGHTS TO HANOI MARCH 3, THEY ARE PROBABLY ANXIOUS TO BEGIN GOING TO BANGKOK AS WELL. AS REPORTED REF A, HOWEVER, THAI MAY BE IN NO HURRY TO RESUME FLIGHTTS TO VIENTIANE SINCE THEY ARE MAKING MONEY ON RUNS TO UDORN. THIS ACCORDS

WITH STATEMENT REF B BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH THAI COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO INDICATED THAT TAC IS UNHAPPY ABOUT LAO INSISTENCE ON HANDLING TAC SALES IN LPDR. THIS IN TURN, HOWEVER, DOES NOT SQUARE WITH STATEMENT BY THAI FOREIGN MINISTER REF C THAT TAC IS SATISFIED WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT.

4. KEY QUESTION SEEMS TO BE WHETHER THAI FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS OF RESUMING ONLY NON-COMMUNIST AIR SERVICE TO LPDR AND ALLOWING LAO TO FLY TO BANGKOK WILL OUTWEIGHT COMMERCIAL WORRIES ABOUT REMISSION OF TAC TICKET PROCEEDS TO THAILAND. FOR THE MOMENT WE REMAIN SKEPTICAL ABOUT EARLY RESUMPTION OF FLIGHTS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIR ROUTES, NEGOTIATIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977VIENTI00438  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
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